

60-1989



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Op-922Y2:ws
Ser: 08773P92

18 MAR 1960

From: Navy Member
To: Chairman, USIB Watch Committee

Subj: Preliminary report on review of Watch Committee Meetings

Ref: (a) Item 2 of Check List for Watch Committee Self-Examination

1. Time of regular meetings. All members have been canvassed and, from the standpoint of convenience to the members, current time schedule of meetings is acceptable to all. One member, however, did raise the question of whether having meetings on some other day of the week than Wednesday might make the Watch Committee reports of greater value to the Board.

Recommendation: That the current schedule for regular meetings be continued.

2. Organization of Watch Committee. The organization of the Watch Committee has been reviewed and is considered adequate for normal purposes. On occasion, however, the USIB has established special Ad-hoc committees to provide special reports on particular hot spots (Example: Arab-Israeli and Berlin Ad-hoc Committees). When formed, these committees have delved into the assigned problems in greater scope and detail than has been the custom of the Watch, with reporting designed to support policy decisions as well as learning. Representation on these Ad-hoc committees from some agencies has been identical to that on the Watch Committee; it has been distinct in other cases. From the practical point of view, such special Ad-hoc committees can contribute materially to the function of the Watch Committee.

Recommendation: That the Chairman of special Ad-hoc committees established by the USIB be required to attend Watch Committee meetings and report to the Committee concerning the imminence of hostilities or threat to US security involved in the problem assigned.

3. Meeting procedures. The procedural aspects have been reviewed and are considered satisfactory with the following exception: the attendance of a large number of back-up personnel has resulted in reluctance of members to discuss sensitive policy matters or special operations which

NAVY review(s) completed.

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are essential to the Committees deliberations. The two primary purposes served by the attendance of back-up personnel are to provide detailed support to the senior member on items being presented by that agency, and to provide those persons with the broad picture to facilitate their support between meetings. These personnel occasionally contribute to the discussion during the drafting of the conclusions but are not considered essential for that purpose.

Recommendation: Convert each meeting into executive session following the initial presentation and other watch reports and prior to proceeding to the discussion of friendly operations. Each member will retain the right to recall back-up support for presentation of his own operational items or for the drafting of the conclusions.

4. Security. Adoption of recommendation 3 will greatly enhance the security of own policy and operational matters. Each member, however, is responsible for reporting in full to his principal.

Recommendation: That members be authorized to divulge to their principals all matters discussed in executive session but be required to observe any other restriction placed upon disclosure of the material by the presenting agency. Conflict of agency interests as a result of this requirement will be resolved by the USIB.

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C. M. Perchot

Copy to:
Watch Committee Members

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